(a) whether Government are making any efforts and allocating resources for the productivity of tobacco per acre in Andhra Pradesh and other tobacco growing States;

(b) whether it is a fact that tobacco productivity per acre in India is only about 1040 Kgs. per hectare;

(c) if so, what are the reasons for this low yield per hectare; and

(d) whether Research and Development effort is proposed to increase the yield of tobacco per acre?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) No, Sir. The average productivity of tobacco in India during 1989-90 to 1991-92 was 1358 kg. per hectare. The Asian and World average during corresponding period was 1457 and 1508 kg. per hectare, respectively. The marginal lower yield in India than World average was due to more area under rainfed conditions, lesser use of inputs etc.

(d) The Institutes of Indian Council of Agricultural Research as well as State Agricultural Universities of major tobacco growing states are already engaged in tobacco research, while the developmental scheme for virginia tobacco is being implemented in virginia growing states by the Tobacco Board in the Ministry of Commerce.

Reclamation of Alkali Soil

4410. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the area of land reclaimed so far in each of the States of Haryana, Punjab and U.P. under the scheme of Reclamation of Alkali (USAR) Soil; and

(b) the total cost of reclamation per hectare of land which has been incurred in each of those States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM): (a) and (b) A Centrally Sponsored Scheme for Reclamation of Alkali (USAR) Soils is under implementation in the States of Haryana, Punjab and Uttar Pradesh since the Seventh Five Year Plan. Area reclaimed and per hectare cost of reclamation in each of these States are as under:—

S. No.	States	Area Reclaimed (VII Plan to 92-93) (Ha.)	Per ha. Cost of reclamation (Rs.)
1.	Haryana	85,014	2439
2.	Punjab	1,61,208	2108
3.	Uttar Pradesh	45,935	4369

Voluntary retirement in PSUS

4411. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the Public Sector Undertakings under his Ministry in which voluntary retirement schemes are under implementation at present; and

(b) the names of employees in each of those Undertakings who have taken voluntary retirement under these schemes till date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) At present a Voluntary Retirement Scheme is under implementation in the National Seeds Corporation Ltd., New Delhi, a Public Sector Undertaking under the administrative control of Department of Agriculture and Cooperation.

(b) The names of employees who have taken voluntary retirement are enclosed as per Statement I and Statement II.